



# NEWS RELEASE

**Today's Date:** Friday, August 22, 2006, -- 06 - 045  
**District:** District 2 - Redding  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Caltrans Maintenance Worker Awarded Governor's Safety Award

**REDDING** – Harold Tracy Criss of Bieber was honored with the Governor's Safety Award during a ceremony in Sacramento on August 18, 2006. Representatives from Governor Schwarzenegger's office presented Criss with the award for saving an injured motorist during a storm in 2005.

One evening in the winter of 2005, Mr. Criss, an equipment operator with the California Department of Transportation working out of the Chester maintenance station, responded to a call from the California Highway Patrol reporting rocks in the roadway. Criss was working State Route 147, a narrow, mountainous road around the shores of Lake Almanor in Plumas County.

While plowing the rocks to the edge of a drop off, Criss thought he heard a faint cry for help and went to investigate. He discovered a vehicle over the embankment and the injured driver who had tried to climb back to the roadway but couldn't make it. After calling for assistance he climbed down to the man and stayed with him until the ambulance arrived and the man was pulled to safety.

Temperatures that night were below freezing and there were no visible signs a vehicle had gone over the edge. If Criss had ignored that faint sound and not taken time to check out the situation, the injured party may not have made it through the night.

Criss received a plaque and certificate for his efforts

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**NOTE:** *An electronic version of this news release is available on the Internet at the following web address:* [http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news\\_releases.htm](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news_releases.htm)